



# AETC Bases News Clips

## LUKE AFB, AZ



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **31-Jan-03**

### VALLEY

## Lawsuit accuses TriWest Healthcare of negligence

By Dennis Wagner  
The Arizona Republic

TriWest Healthcare Alliance has been hit with a class-action lawsuit for negligence by customers whose identity information was stolen last month in a heist of computer data from the Phoenix-based defense contractor.

The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for Arizona by Tucson attorneys David Karnas and Gary Bellovin on behalf of Lt. Col. Michael Stollenwerk and Andrea DeGatica, both of Virginia.

They seek unspecified monetary damages for alleged negligence, breach of contract and violations of the federal Privacy Act.

TriWest officials declined to comment on the civil complaint Wednesday, saying they had not had an opportunity to review the allegations.

The company's offices were invaded Dec. 14 by thieves who made off with laptop computers containing files on 562,000 military personnel, retirees and family members who have health care through the company. The data included Social Security numbers, birth dates, duty stations, medical records and other information that could be used by identity thieves.

The robbers targeted computer data and left more valuable items behind. Despite a \$100,000 reward offer by TriWest, and intense investigations

by the Defense Department, FBI and Phoenix police, no suspects have been identified.

Neither the company nor criminal investigators have been willing to say whether the burgled office at Thunderbird Road and Interstate 17 had an alarm system, guards, video cameras or other security measures in place.

The stolen computers contained data on active military personnel who could be called to fight in a war against Iraq. Some members of the armed forces have fretted that enemies or terrorists might obtain information and use it against American troops or their families.

TriWest continues to emphasize that, to date, no stolen data

has been used for criminal purposes. But authorities have divulged little about the theft, and even less about their investigation. Steven Anthony, a spokesman for the Defense Department's Office of the Inspector General, said investigators could not discuss the case.

Jim Kassebaum, director of external affairs for TriWest, said he is "not in the loop" and doesn't know whether there has been any progress.

Robert Ellis Smith, publisher of the Rhode Island-based newsletter *Privacy Journal*, said litigation to protect privacy continues to accelerate, with large awards when plaintiffs prevail.

However, he added, "Win-

ning a privacy lawsuit is not a slam dunk by any means," and most cases are dismissed or settled.

Under a \$2.5 billion contract with the Department of Defense, TriWest provides health care to 1.1 million people in 16 states. The company is competing for a much larger contract, worth up to \$10 billion. Bidding on that program closed this week.

Meanwhile, the company announced Wednesday that it has issued a new mailer to data theft victims, including the

estimated 100,000 in Arizona.

The letter explains how customers can use the Internet to get their credit records "red-flagged" with consumer alerts. The instructions (at [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com)) include directions on how to determine whether a Social Security number was compromised.

Dave McIntyre, TriWest's president and chief executive has apologized to customers and stressed that computer systems and security were enhanced after the break-in.



# AETC Bases News Clips

## KEESLER AFB, MS



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **31-Jan-03**

---

Posted on Thu, Jan. 30, 2003

**THE SUN HERALD**

### **Keesler normally can't aid civilians**

By **PATRICK PETERSON**  
**THE SUN HERALD**

**BILOXI** - Despite the South Mississippi medical crisis, Keesler Medical Center could not accept civilian patients unless Gov. Ronnie Musgrove declares an emergency and requests help from the Department of Defense. President Bush ultimately would make the decision whether to open the center to civilians.

"We're ready to do so if called upon, but it would have to be declared an emergency," said Steve Pivnik, spokesman for the medical center. "We can't make a decision at this level."

Five general surgeons and two vascular surgeons licensed to practice in Mississippi are stationed at Keesler. The base also can airlift patients.

The center normally treats active and retired military but occasionally has treated civilians. The center would not turn away anyone who was critically injured.

"Say there was an auto accident near the base and there's a trauma situation, of course we'd accept a civilian if it was a matter of saving life and limb," Pivnik said. "We could and I believe we have in the past.

"If it was a true emergency situation, a traffic accident nearby... that would be one matter," he said. "A referral from another hospital for surgery, or a non-emergency situation is a horse of a different color."

A statement from Keesler Medical Center states: "Keesler has personnel, equipment and supplies that can be used when the President of the United States has declared an emergency... . Prior to using (Department of Defense) resources, the president must determine whether the potential work stoppage by surgeons of the Gulf Coast constitutes an 'emergency' as defined by the statute." The Stafford Act sets out the legal mechanism that requires the Mississippi governor to ask the president for help.

Keesler's statement added that, due to the medical crisis, Keesler leaders are preparing for the event they are asked to treat civilians.

"We are taking internal steps at this time to be prepared to assist should we be called upon to provide emergency care to patients presenting to our emergency room or requested to provide aeromedical evacuation for emergency cases."

***Biloxi Sun Herald***  
**PAGE: Internet**  
**DATE: 31-Jan-03**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## LUKE AFB, AZ



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **31-Jan-03**

### Surprise makes Luke statement

By **PATRICK O'GRADY**  
and **BRIAN POWELL**  
Surprise Today

**L**uke Air Force Base should stay in the West Valley, but not at the risk of continued growth in the region, according to responses filed by El Mirage and Surprise to an Arizona Department of Commerce effort to look at land-use compatibility with the base.

Both councils voted on strongly worded statements last week to submit to the Commerce Department and their effort to develop the Western Maricopa County/Luke Air Force Base Regional Compatibility Plan. The statements were very clear that both cities sought to keep Luke, but several items in the draft plan, including restricting development for much of the West Valley to less than two homes per acre, would not work.

"Parts of the original plan said Surprise shouldn't build any more, and that's unfeasible," said Surprise Councilman

Tom Allen, who has been an outspoken proponent for Luke.

The Department of Commerce has been working on the plan for more than six months. In December, officials invited groups of various stakeholders including land owners, city officials, base officials and the development community to public sessions where they talked about ways of preserving Luke.

While there were good points about the plan, most have objected to two compatibility areas planned for around the base that would limit housing. Surprise officials last week discussing the plan said they would have to do major revisions on the city's general plan — a document Luke officials were asked to participate in while it was being drafted.

El Mirage's two-page letter, signed by the mayor and council, strongly implies that the city would be devastated by the implementation of the plan.

**See El Mirage fears, A5**

### El Mirage fears worst with plan

From A1

The letter states the plan would cause lost education and job opportunities, economic development "and the chance for El Mirage's economic survival itself."

Mayor Robert Robles said the city has a good working relationship with Luke, but this plan would cause too much harm to the city.

"The only thing I'm saying is for everyone to stop and take a look at what is happening to El Mirage. Our hands are just about tied," Robles said.

"Meet us halfway, at least, in order to bring revenue into the city and keep city services for our residents."

The letter said El Mirage already feels the affect of Luke by losing school sites, which affects property values. The plan would also dampen opportunities for state and federal grants related to planning and urban development, the letter said.

El Mirage officials have called the plan "unfair" for the city in which the proposed plan would "impose the greatest burden on the community with the greatest proportion of minority

population and the lowest median family income," the letter said.

What the plan overlooked may be the one thing that can save the base from encroachment, officials said.

"The only thing that's going to save Luke is if the cities and county work together," said Surprise Mayor Joan Shafer.

Allen said all West Valley cities, along with homebuilders, will have to work to protect the base.

"We'll do everything that need to do to keep Luke around," Allen said.

**The Arizona Republic**

**PAGE: Internet**

**DATE: 31-Jan-03**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Vance AFB OK



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **31-Jan-03**

---

### **Ward 1 candidates 'positive,' 'fed up'**

By Robert Barron, Staff Writer

January 30, 2003

#### **Erwin, Whatley compete for spot on city commission.**

The Ward 1 Enid City Commission position is currently vacant due to the resignation of Irv Honigsberg.

Honigsberg resigned his position earlier this month to enter the race for mayor.

Two candidates have filed for the office.

They are Jerry Erwin, 65, 902 Canary, a retired administrator at Integris Bass Baptist Health Center and current chairman of the hospital foundation, and Mike Whatley, 41, 401 Greg.

Whatley is employed in base operations for DynCorp at Vance Air Force Base.

City commission candidates will be elected March 4.

Jerry Erwin

Erwin has lived in Enid all of his life and has an interest in the city. So, when a couple of people approached him to run for city commission, he accepted.

"My health is good and I want to return something to Enid," he said.

The upcoming sales tax and bond issue election is the number one priority facing the commission now, he said. Enid residents will vote Feb. 11 on a package to raise money for school and street improvements.

"I'm positive about the election. No one likes taxes. But it's the responsibility of the city to do what we need to," he said.

Erwin wants the quality of life in Enid enhanced and the school system is part of that equation, he said. His wife is a retired teacher and administrator at Enid schools.

"A well-cared-for city speaks volumes about the environment in which people live," he said.

As a retired military member, Erwin also is positive about the impact of Vance Air Force Base on Enid.

"Its mission is an integral part of the community. The tax proposal will provide much-needed physical enhancements," he said.

***Enid News & Eagle***

**PAGE: Internet**

**DATE: 31-Jan-03**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Vance AFB OK



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **31-Jan-03**

---

### **Erwin, Whatley compete for spot on city commission, Con't.**

The city has had "excellent leadership" from Mike Cooper and others involved in the Vance preservation effort, he said.

Erwin said he has supported those efforts in the past, and he recalls participating in a motorcade to Fort Worth, Texas, during the 1995 Base Closure and Realignment Commission round.

"We have to continue support through every round. We need to keep what we have in northwest Oklahoma," he said. "It's also important to maintain and improve what we have."

Erwin said he wants the city infrastructure improvements continued and the same for Vance.

"Don't let things deteriorate," he said. "We should do the same with Vance."

Economic development is another area in which Erwin wants the commission to be active.

"It's always a challenge. We lost SBC, but Advance Food is enlarging," he said. "We must find a way to create opportunities in the city and to attract industry."

Erwin is a former administrator at Integris Bass Baptist Health Center and currently serves as chairman of the hospital foundation.

"My management experience includes being responsible for several departments that reported to me and a large budget," he said.

When Erwin retired he remained in Enid rather than moving to another city to be closer to his children.

"Financial cuts are hard. Anyone in business knows they are hard. When times are prosperous many positions are added and are justified," he said. "But there always comes a time when revenue goes flat or decreases."

Mike Whatley

Whatley is "fed up."

He is a candidate for city commission in Ward 1, which was represented by Iv Honigsberg until his recent resignation to run for mayor.

"I'm running because I'm so fed up with everything happening in recent years from watching (commission meetings) on PEGASYS and in the paper," he said. "I decided to either try to change it or quit worrying."

Whatley wonders about the process behind decisions made by commissioners.

***Enid News & Eagle***

**PAGE: Internet**

**DATE: 31-Jan-03**





# AETC Bases News Clips

## Vance AFB OK



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **31-Jan-03**

---

### **Erwin, Whatley compete for spot on city commission, Con't.**

Speaking about the Feb. 11 sales tax and bond election to provide funds for Enid schools and street repair, he said the money is needed.

"I'm hoping when it passes the money will be used properly," he said.

A lifelong resident of Enid, Whatley said Enid schools have needed work since he attended them. Enid's streets also need work, he said.

Whatley believes city money has not been managed correctly in the past. Tax money designated for street improvements were diverted for SBC (formerly Southwestern Bell) to locate a new call center in Enid. Now that the center is not coming, he thinks the funds should be returned to the general fund or to roads.

"We've needed this stuff for a long time," he said.

Even though he supports the Feb. 11 election, Whatley does not believe it will impact the Vance Air Force Base issue, because there will not be enough work done by the time the next base closing round is held in 2005.

"How many roads will be done, how much will be done at the schools?" he asked. "It's a nice thought, but why did we wait so long to get something accomplished."

Whatley also thinks there should be better communication between the city and the public.

Noon commission meetings are not easy for members of the general public to attend, he said. He prefers the nighttime meetings.

He also criticized the news media for what he called its lack of detail in news coverage of commission meetings.

"I want more emphasis from the news media on what happened," he said.

This is Whatley's first try for public office. He was raised in Enid and, after serving in the Navy, returned to work for ADM Milling for seven years before going for DynCorp, where he has been for five years.

He is attending Northern Oklahoma College, pursuing a business degree.

Whatley and his wife, Stephanie, have three boys.

"It may help to have an average working guy's perspective on the city commission," he said.

***Enid News & Eagle***

**PAGE: Internet**

**DATE: 31-Jan-03**